

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to require its affiliates across the country to air a blatantly anti - Kerry documentary should not be allowed for a number of reasons. A network should not be allowed to force affiliates to air what in essence is a political editorial/free advertisement in the guise of a documentary. If a network such as PBS, or CBS tried to force all of its affiliates to air Michael Moore's 9/11, Republicans would rightly go through the roof, and I suspect they would be forced to back down, the same should happen here. Secondly, this should not be allowed as it is in essence a unpaid political advertisement for the Bush campaign which is against campaign finance laws.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. This means fair, and balanced reporting and programing. Having Senator John Kerry at the end to my mind is not adequate. Many people will tune off after the documentary, and Senagtor Kerry will be forced into a defensive posture. If Sinclair is also willing to air an anti Bush documentary of the Kerry Campaign's choosing, and also force their affiliates to air that, then there would be balance. I suspect they would not be interested.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.